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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 14, 2002**

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# **HERMOSILLO MAN SENTENCED IN ATTEMPTED MURDER OF BORDER PATROL AGENT**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 14, 2002, Armando Garcia-Munoz, D.O.B. 5/30/81, of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced to 197 months imprisonment, by United States District Judge John M. Roll, in Tucson, Arizona.

Armando Garcia-Munoz had been found guilty by jury on August 1, 2001, of attempted murder of a federal officer, assault of a federal officer with a deadly weapon and brandishing a firearm in relation to a crime of violence.

The evidence at trial showed that on June 7, 1999, Border Patrol Agent Victor Garcia responded to a call from concerned citizens regarding 6 suspected illegal immigrants. At about 2:30 p.m., he began tracking the group through the desert toward a dry stock tank. After approximately 1 ½ hours, he heard the sound of breaking brush. Agent Garcia attempted to divert the individuals' attention by throwing a rock in one direction and running in the opposite. He then ran into the defendant, Armando Garcia-Munoz, who, along with Joel Salazar-Padilla, was running away from a house they had just

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burglarized. Garcia-Munoz and Salazar-Padilla had stolen two Ruger 9mm pistols from a home near McNeal, Arizona. Agent Garcia identified himself as a Border Patrol Agent and asked Garcia-Munoz to show him his hands. Garcia-Munoz responded by pulling out the loaded Ruger 9mm pistol he had just stolen and pointing it at Agent Garcia. Garcia-Munoz attempted to shoot Agent Garcia twice, first in the mid-section and then in the head. Agent Garcia testified that he could see the white on Garcia-Munoz's knuckles as he pulled the trigger. Agent Garcia wrestled with Garcia-Munoz, attempting to gain control of the weapon. During the struggle, Garcia-Munoz twice attempted to take Agent Garcia's gun with his left hand. After Agent Garcia took the Ruger 9mm pistol from Garcia-Munoz, he arrested both individuals. Agent Garcia examined the Ruger 9mm pistol after the arrest. Agent Garcia testified that the reason the gun did not fire was because the safety was on and there was not a round in the chamber.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Cochise County Sheriff's Department and the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The prosecution was handled by Lauren A. Anaya and Maria S. Davila, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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